

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----049045 251419Z /43

O R 251249Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7746  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2338

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR MARR UN LE IS PLO  
SUBJ: LUNCH WITH SIILASVUO

REF: (A) USUN 1601, (B) JERUSALEM 1169, (C) USUN 1583

1. SUMMARY. IN SIILASVUO'S VIEW, ESSENTIAL ISRAELI  
CONDITION FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON IS  
CONTINUATION OF SO-CALLED GOOD FENCE. PLO MIGHT AGREE TO  
UN PRESENCE AT CHATEAU BEAUFORT, NABATIYAH AND HASBIYAH.  
GOL AUTHORITIES ARE TELLING HIM THAT THERE ARE 350 LOCAL  
LEBANESE GENDARMES NOW IN THE SOUTH, BUT SIILASVUO DOES NOT  
APPEAR TO EXPECT ANY MEANINGFUL GOL SUPPORT IN THE SOUTH,  
AND SEEMS PREPARED TO TRY TO MAKE UNIFIL A SUCCESS IN SPITE  
OF LACK OF GOL HELP. HE IS HOPEFUL (BUT NOT CERTAIN)  
THAT UNIFIL ZONE ACROSS SOUTH LEBANON BETWEEN LITANI AND  
REMAINING ISRAELI ZONE OF CONTROL WILL SERVE AS LARGELY  
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IF NOT TOTALLY EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO PALESTINIAN RE-ENTRY  
INTO THE SOUTH. PROBLEM WITH PROPOSED UN HEADQUARTERS  
AT ZAHRANI IS THAT SOME TAPLINE COMPANY QUARTERS ARE  
CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY SYRIAN ADF ELEMENTS. SIILASVUO  
SEES NO NEED FOR A UN POLITICAL ADVISOR IN BEIRUT. END  
SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL SIILASVUO CAME TO LUNCH AT YARZE WITH ME AND POLITICAL OFFICER MOLINEAUX APRIL 24. HE HAD MET THAT MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS, GENERAL KHOURY AND LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES COMMANDANT COLONEL AL-HAJJ, AND SEPARATELY WITH INTERIOR MINISTER SALMAN. SIILASVUO CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT GOL WILL PARTICIPATE AT LEAST SYMBOLICALLY IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AND ASKED MY SUPPORT IN ENCOURAGING LEBANESE TO DO SO, BUT HE IS RECONCILED TO FACT THAT ESSENTIALLY UNIFIL WILL HAVE TO GO IT ALONE.

3. ISRAELI TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH? BASED PRIMARILY ON HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL EITAN, SIILASVUO SAID THAT BASIC ISRAELI PRECONDITIONS FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH WERE PRESERVATION OF THE "GOOD FENCE" OPENING AND SOME KIND OF PROTECTION FOR THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS IN THAT AREA. HE UNDERSTOOD FROM ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, THAT IN FINAL ANALYSIS PROTECTION OF CHRISTIANS WAS LESS IMPORTANT THAN WITHDRAWAL. I TOLD HIM IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE OPENLY IN ANY "GOOD FENCE" ARRANGEMENT, BUT THAT ONE POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE FOR UNIFIL ELEMENTS TO GUARD THE LEBANESE SIDE OF "GOOD FENCE" CROSSING POINTS. HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH KHOURY AND BOUTROS QUESTION OF HIGH-LEVEL LEBANESE-ISRAELI MEETING, PERHAPS UNDER UNTSO AUSPICES, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PERHAPS AT NAQURA, AND SAID HE HAD OFFERED HIMSELF TO HELP ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING, BUT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS WAS DISTINCTLY UNENTHUSIASTIC.

4. EXTENT OF SECOND PHASE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. SIILASVUO SHOWED ME HIS MAP OF THE ISRAELI APRIL 30 WITHDRAWAL PLAN. IT HAD A STRAIGHT LINE GOING DUE EAST FROM RAS AL BAYYADA (LATITUDE APPROXIMATELY 33 DEGREES 10 MIN), ON MEDITERRANEAN COAST BETWEEN NAQURA AND TYRE, EXTENDING EASTWARD TO POINT SOUTHEAST OF TIBNIN, THEN NORTHWARD ABOUT 10 KILOMETERS, THEN TURNING EASTWARD AGAIN TO QAL'AT ASH SHAQIF (JUST ONE KILOMETER FROM ISRAELI BORDER, WHERE IT TURNS NORTHWARD IN ARCH AROUND MARJAYUN AND KHIAM. HE SAID REMAINING ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ZONE WOULD BE ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL ORIGINAL AREA OCCUPIED BY ISRAELIS.

5. UN NORTH OF LITANI? SIILASVUO SAID PLO, IN RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM'S REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO STATION OBSERVERS, HAD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BEAUFORT, NABATIYAH AND HASBAYA. (THIS CONFIRMS USUN 1601.) HE REFLECTED SOME DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD

REALLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THIS.

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EXDIS

6. LEBANESE GENDARMES. SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD IN HIS MEETINGS WITH GOL OFFICIALS THAT MORNING THAT THERE WERE NOW IN SOUTH LEBANON SOME 350 SOUTH LEBANESE GENDARMES WHO MIGHT BE ACTIVATED TO SERVE ALONGSIDE UNIFIL TROOPS. HE SAID THERE WAS A REAL NEED FOR THEM, TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE (ESSENTIALLY PALESTINIANS) WHO SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE SOUTH, AS WELL AS TO ENGAGE IN JOINT PATROLLING. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS HAD, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT SCREENING POSED SOME PROBLEMS. HE REFERRED SIILASVUO TO INTERIOR MINISTER SALMAN TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. SALMAN HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN HIS ENTHUSIASM (BUT TOLD PRESS GOL WOULD DO ITS BEST). SIILASVUO HAD THEN DISCUSSED WITH COL. HAJJ, COMMANDER OF ISF. (COMMENT: IDEA OF SENDING GENDARMES TO THE SOUTH INSTEAD OF THE ARMY WAS ORIGINALLY BOUTROS'.) SIILASVUO HIMSELF WAS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT UN CIVIL POLICE IDEA.

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7. NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE LEBANESE ARMY. SIILASVUO GAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION (AS HE DID TO CONSUL GENERAL NEWLIN - - JERUSALEM 1169) THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE LEBANESE ARMY TO MOVE TO THE SOUTH, ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUES TO WELCOME ANY SYMBOLIC LEBANESE ARMY CONTINGENT, AND HOPES THAT WE WILL SUPPORT HIM IN THIS REQUEST. I PROMISED TO DO MY BEST, BUT WE BOTH AGREED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE EXPECTED. HE HOPED I WOULD BE ABLE TO PRESS GOL ON GENDARMES AND I WILL DO SO.

8. UNIFIL CAN GO IT ALONE. DESPITE HIS PESSIMISM THAT THE LEBANESE WOULD BE OF ANY HELP, SIILASVUO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT UNIFIL BY ITSELF COULD SUBSTANTIALLY -- IF NOT TOTALLY -- PREVENT PALESTINAIN REINFILTRATION INTO THE SOUTH. HE ENVISIONS UNIFIL DETACHMENTS IN AT LEAST EVERY MAJOR VILLAGE AND PATROLLING ACTIVITY IN BETWEEN. MOST SENSITIVE AREA IS AND WILL BE THE "TYRE SALIENT", BUT THE BEST UN TROOPS -- THE FRENCH -- ARE LOCATED THERE.

9. ZAHRANI HEADQUARTERS PROBLEM. SIILASVUO SAID THAT THE QUARTERS OFFERED BY TAPLINE AT ZAHRANI ARE COMFORTABLE AND THERE ARE MANY ATTRACTIVE FACILITIES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING A GOLF COURSE AND TENNIS COURTS, BUT A SYRIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT IS ALREADY PARTIALLY OCCUPYING THEM. UNIFIL HAS CONSIDERED ASKING WALDHEIM TO RAISE THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD. ZAHRANI ALSO HAS DRAWBACK THAT IT IS SEPARATED FROM UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS, AND THE PALESTINIANS CONTROL THE ROAD IN BETWEEN. HE NOTED THAT NO LESS THAN NINE PALESTINIAN GROUPS ARE PRESENTLY REPRESENTED AT THE QASIMIYAH BRIDGE. IN THE EVENT OF

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A RESUMED CIVIL WAR, ZAHRANI WAS LIKELY TO BE CUT OFF FROM SOUTH.

10. NO POLITICAL ADVISOR IN BEIRUT WANTED. SIILASVUO MADE CLEAR THAT IN HIS VIEW A HIGH-RANKING UN POLITICAL ADVISOR IN BEIRUT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE UN HAD NO ONE WHO COULD FILL THE JOB (AS URQUHART HAS TOLD AMB LEONARD - USUN 1583). IN THE SECOND PLACE, WITH WHOM WOULD HE LIAISE? HE CLEARLY FELT THAT HE COULD HANDLE THE GOL LEADERSHIP HIMSELF.

11. HADDAD PROBLEM. SIILASVUO'S MOST ENTERTAINING

COMMENT WAS ON WHAT TO DO WITH CHRISTIAN SOUTHERN FORCES COMMANDER MAJOR SA'D HADDAD. HE SAID QUESTION HAD COME UP IN ONE OF THE ILMAC MEETINGS LATE IN 1977, AND THAT THE LEBANESE COLONEL PRESENT HAD SUGGESTED HADDAD COULD BE THE FIRST LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL.

12. COMMENT: SIILASVUO FULLY UNDERSTANDS WEAKNESS OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, AND DOES NOT SEEM TO BE COUNTING ON ANY REAL HELP FROM IT. OUR MEETING WAS MOST USEFUL TO ME IN GETTING BETTER INSIGHT INTO HIS VIEWS AND OPERATING METHODS. I AM SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED ABOUT LIAISON PROBLEM FOR THE MOMENT, BUT FEAR IT WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT US.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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